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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
HA-05 CA-01 /072 W
----------069633 112043Z /61
R 111008Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3763
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 1850

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, CSCE, PL, SW, PEPR
SUBJ: SWEDISH CITIZENS OF POLISH-JEWISH DESCENT DENIED ENTRY TO POLAND

REF: STATE 113932

1. POLOFF DISCUSSED PROBLEM OF GOP TREATMENT OF POLISH-BORN SWEDISH JEWS WITH MFA EASTERN EUROPEAN DESK OFFICER (TOMENG-DAHL) WHO ACCOMPANIED PM FALLDIN ON HIS RECENT VISIT TO POLAND (REFTEL). THE PROBLEM REMAINS FAR FROM SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION DESPITE HIGHEST LEVEL GOP-GOS ATTENTION AND PRIME-MINISTERIAL UTTERINGS TO THE CONTRARY.

2. AFTER RAISING THE ISSUE THE FIRST DAY IN POLAND BOTH WITH GIEREK AND PM JAROSZEWICZ, PM FALLDIN ASSURED THE SWEDISH PRESS THAT HE HAD OBTAINED A COMMITMENT FROM THE GOP TO PROVIDE REASONS IN EACH INSTANCE ENTRY TO POLAND IS DENIED A SWEDISH CITIZEN. POLISH AUTHORITIES WERE TO PUT THE NEW REGULATIONS INTO EFFECT IMMEDIATELY. FALLDIN TERMED THIS SOLUTION TO THE CONFIDENTIAL

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MOST PRESSING AND SENSITIVE OF EXTANT BILATERAL ISSUES "A GREAT SUCCESS".

3. IN FACT, THE EXPERIENCE SINCE APRIL INDICATES THAT FALLDIN'S OPTIMISM WAS PREMATURE, TO SAY THE LEAST. IT HAS BECOME OBVIOUS TO MFA OFFICIALS MONITORING THE SO-CALLED AGREEMENT THAT THE SWEDES AND POLES HAVE DECIDEDLY DIFFERENT INTERPRE-

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TATIONS ON EXACTLY WHAT WAS AGREED ON. THE SWEDES BELIEVE THE POLES ARE DISCRIMINATING AGAINST A CERTAIN CATEGORY OF SWEDISH CITIZEN AND THINK THE POLES AGREED TO PROVIDE REASONS IN EACH CASE OF DENIED ENTRY. THE POLES PRIVATELY COUNTERMAND THAT THEY ARE NOT DISCRIMINATING AGAINST A GROUP BUT, ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS, ARE DENYING ENTRY, AS IS THEIR SOVEREIGN RIGHT, TO INDIVIDUALS THEY DO NOT WISH TO HAVE IN POLAND. THEY TELL THE SWEDES THEY AGREED ONLY TO STUDY THE PROBLEM MORE CLOSELY "TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ALL ITS ASPECTS".

4. MFA HAS A LIST OF SOME ONE HUNDRED NAMES WHO HAVE BEEN DENIED ENTRY. THERE IS NO COMPREHENSIBLE PATTERN REGARDING WHO IS OR IS NOT ADMITTED. IN SOME CASES, PEOPLE WHO HAD BEEN ADMITTED EARLIER ARE NOW BEING TURNED AWAY. IN OTHER INSTANCES, PEOPLE WHO WERE EARLIER DENIED ENTRY ARE BEING ADMITTED. THE PATTERN OF ENTRY REFUSED, NO REASON GIVEN, HAS NOT CHANGED IN THE WAKE OF THE FALLDIN VISIT.

5. PM FALLDIN WAS QUESTIONED ON THE MATTER IN THE RIKSDAY ON APRIL 27. HE RESPONDED IN PART: "THE POLISH LEADERS EXPLAINED THAT THEY WERE READY TO PRESENT REASONS FOR THE REJECTIONS. I THEREFORE TAKE IT FOR GRANTED THAT THE POLISH AUTHORITIES WILL IN THE FUTURE PROVIDE US THIS INFORMATION WHEN WE SO REQUEST. ON THIS BASIS WE WILL CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM." MFA OFFICIAL ARE NOT NEARLY SO OPTIMISTIC: THEY SEE NO SIGNS OF A POSITIVE REACTION FROM THE POLES. ON THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONTRARY, RECENT REFUSALS POINT TO A HARDENING OF THE POLISH ATTITUDE.

6. COMMENT: OUR MFA COLLEAGUES BELIEVE THEY HAVE RIDDEN THIS ISSUE ABOUT AS FAR AND HIGH AS POSSIBLE. ALL THAT REMAINS IS TO KEEP HARPING. UNDER THE GLARE OF SWEDISH MEDIA ATTENTION, WHICH HAS BEEN PERSISTENT, THEY CANNOT DO OTHERWISE. SEVERAL GOS SOURCES HAVE COMMENTED TO EMBASSY OFFICIALS IN RECENT DAYS THAT NOT ONLY POLAND, BUT ALL EE'S SEEM TO BE TOUGHENING UP ON HUMANITARIAN ISSUES NOW THAT THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE IS OUT OF THE WAY.

7. OUR MFA FRIENDS HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY FORTHCOMING IN SHARING THEIR EXPERIENCES WITH US, AND HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN HOW WE ARE HANDLING THE PROBLEM. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION DEPARTMENT MIGHT PROVIDE ON US DEALINGS WITH POLES IN THIS FIELD THAT WE MIGHT DISCREETLY SHARE WITH SWEDES. KENNEDY-MINOTT

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